

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 05144 120051Z
ACTION CU-04

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R 111432Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4341
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 5144

STATE FOR CU/ARTS

USIA FOR IEU

ATHENS, COPENHAGEN, LONDON, MUNICH AND PARIS FOR USIS

VIENNA FOR RPO

VIENNA FOR RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, RO
SUBJECT: AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE VISIT

SUMMARY: ABT VISIT GREAT ARTISTIC SUCCESS. FIRST MAJOR AMERICAN
DANCE COMPANY TO APPEAR IN BUCHAREST SINCE 1974. GROUP'S VARIETY
AND QUALITY APPRECIATED BY FRO HOUSES DURING THREE PERFORMANCES.
INITIAL REVIEWS VERY POSITIVE. GROUP EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE.

1. THE AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE PERFORMED IN BUCHAREST, JULY 4,
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5 AND 6 IN THE ROMANIAN OPERA BEFORE SRO HOUSES. THE VISIT WAS
ARRANGED WITH ONLY THREE WEEKS NOTICE AND DESPITE SOME MINOR
PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LACK OF LEAD TIME AND LOCAL CIRCUMSTATNCES
THE VISIT WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL BOTH IN ARTISTIC AND PUBLIC
RELATIONS TERMS. THE VISIT WAS THE FIRST BY A MAJOR AMERICAN
COMPANY SINCE ALVIN AILEY'S 1974 PROGRAM. ONE OF THE U.S.'S
BEST KNOWN AND MOST RESPECTED COMPANIES, THE ABT THROUGH ITS

QUALITY AND VERSATILITY DELIGHTED AUDIENCES AND OVERWHELED LOCAL DANCERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS AND CRITICS. THE DIFFICULT-TO-PLEASE LOCAL AUDIENCE WARMLY APPLAUDED MODERN PIECES (ESPECIALLY STRAVINSKY'S "RITES OF SPRING" CHOREOGRAPHED BY GLEN TETLEY; "THE RIVER" - MUSIC, ELLINGTON, CHOREOGRAPHER-ALVIN AILEY; AND "PUSH COMES TO SHOVE" - MUSIC HAYDN/LAMB, CHOREOGRAPHER TWHLA THAPR). CLASSICAL PIECES FAIRLY WELL-RECEIVED BUT PUBLIC'S ENTHUSIASM WAS RESERVED FOR MODERN WORKS NOT PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED HERE. PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONALS ALIKE DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY CONSISTENTLY HIGH LEVEL OF PERFORMANCES, STAGING, LIGHTING AND DIRECTION. DEMANDS FOR TICKETS GREATLY EXCEEDED SUPPLY GIVEN HIGH LOCAL INTEREST AND THE RELATIVELY SMALL (944 SEATS) CAPACITY OF THE OPERA. ALL TICKETS WERE COMMITTED THE FIRST DAY THEY WERE PUT ON SALE. PRICES WERE REASONABLE.

2. SUPPER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR BARNES FOLLOWING JULY 5 PERFORMANCE WAS ENJOYABLE AFFAIR ALLOWING ABT DANCERS AND STAFF OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ROMANIAN DANCERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS AND CRITICS AS WELL AS COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION OFFICIALS. HIGHEST RANKING CSCE OFFICIAL WAS NICOLAE CALINOIU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ARTS DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER GUESTS INCLUDED CHOREOGRAPHERS OLEG DANOVSKY (RECENT IV GRANTEE) AND MIRIAM RADUCANU AND PRIMA BALLERINA LLEANA ILLIESCU.

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3. IN AN UNUSUAL DEPARTURE FROM LOCAL CUSTOM, REVIEWS HAVE ALREADY APPEARED IN ROMANIA LIBERA, ROMANIAN LITERARY AND SCINTELA TINERETULUI. THE ROMANIA LIBERA PIECE COMMENTED: "WE CAN NOW SPEAK OF AN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BALLET IN WHICH ELEGANCE, PRECISION AND EXACTITUDE OF MOVEMENT ARE DOMINANT." THE JULY 7TH ROMANIAN LITERARY REVIEW ADDED: "THUS, THE AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE OFFERED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PENETRATE INTO THE HISTORY OF SCENIC DANCE, FROM ITS ACADEMIC FORMULA DOWN TO THE NEWEST TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY CHOREOGRAPHY, HISTORY PRESENTED BY A COMPANY OF HIGH ARTISTIC LEVEL." RADIO INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN OR WILL SOON BE BROADCAST AND ROMANIAN TV USED JULY 10 AN EXCERPT FROM THE FILM "A CLOSE-UP IN TIME."

4. THE COMPANY'S ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, PERFORMERS AND TECHNICAL CREW WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE AND ESTABLISHED GOOD PERSONAL AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROMANIANS. THE COMPANY PRESENTED A GENEROUS DONATION TO THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND.

5. THE ABT REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONALISM IN DANCE AND SHOULD BE WELCOMED WORLD-WIDE. THE POST HOPES

THAT THROUGH DEPARTMENT AND PERHAPS PRIVATE SUPPORT A TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS(INCLUDING ROMANIA) COULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE THE DECADE ENDS.

6. THE POST IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO CU/ARTS FOR PROPOSING, FOLLOWING-UP AND FUNDING THE ABT VISIT. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH A VISIT UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PRODIGIOUS. TO START FROM SCRATCH 3 WEEKS BEFORE A PERFORMANCE AND TO HAVE IT COME OFF SO WELL REFLECTS THE INTEREST, ORGANIZATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF CU/ARTS. THE IMPACT OF THIS VISIT WILL LONG BE FELT LOCALLY AND WE THANK CU/ARTS FOR HELPING US FULFILL A LONG-REQUESTED PROGRAM NEED. SIMILARLY OUR APPRECIATION TO RPO VIENNA'S NANCY PLON AND USIS ATHENS FOR SERVING AS INTERMEDIATIES WITH ABT. ALSO IMV'S PROVIDING OF THE ABT FILM AND VOA'S PRE-UNCLASSIFIED

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PERFORMANCE BROADCASTS WERE EXTREMELY HELPFUL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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